GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1814
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2005
INDO-AZERBAIZAN CO-OPERATION IN OIL SECTOR
Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is keen to join Baku (Azerbaizan) oil hunt; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a)&(b):- The inauguration of the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline provides an unprecedented historic opportunity for Asian consumers like India to access Caspian oil at a port where the oil can be transported through the Suez Canal to the Arabian Sea or even pipe from Mediterranean Sea to Gulf of Aqaba. With a view to availing of the opportunity the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas accompanied by oil PSUs representatives initiated discussions with the operators of the pipeline during his visits in June 2005 to Azerbaizan and Turkey.